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OBSERVATIONS.

No one is better qualified to express the characteristics of an oriental people than Lafcadio Hearn. He has lived in Japan for many years. He has married a Japanese lady. He has spent his summers in a houseboat anchored to the shore by a rope which was loosened when the scenery grew monotonous and his house moved to another town. In short in so far as a dreamy imaginative, Creole, of the western world could, he has lived in Japan like a Japanese. His style is limpid and unstudied and in Kokoro—"the heart of things"—it is possible for a cosmopolitan to become acquainted with and appreciate the Japanese people. "Sympathy is limited by comprehension. We may sympathize to the same degree that we understand. One may imagine that he sympathizes with Japanese or Chinese, but the sympathy can never be real to more than a small extent outside of the simplest phases of common emotional life—those phases in which child and man are at one. The more complex feelings of the Oriental have been composed by combinations of experiences, ancestral and individual, which have had no really precise correspondence in western life, and which we therefore can not fully know. The strength of Japan, like the strength of her ancient faith needs little material display; both exist where the deepest real power of any great people exists—in the Race Ghost."

The especial gift of this author is sympathy. He does not read his own

opinions and reasons into a foreign people, but accepts theirs and endeavors to understand them. To those to whom the ways of the east are unknown Kokoro is revelation, it is the beginning of a new administration and new ideas. Alexander was tired of life because there was nothing new for him to conquer. We exhausted the occidental syllogism long ago. If some of the old causes of misery could be forgotten, the interest of learning and experiencing new ones would decrease the number of suicides. In Japan a gentleman does not fall in love to such a degree that if the lady changes her mind, it drives him to death or drink. He feels the inconvenience of disarranged plans and a tinge of mortification that she or her parents should prefer another man, but the pangs of love as well as the raptures are unknown in Japan. All sorts of hysteria are unknown. They live in a cool temperature. The extremes of agony and rapture they do not experience. They are placid babies, calm youths, serene old men. They are industrious and saving without being over anxious or worried. They spend money on a holiday with the nonchalance and abandon of a monarch and without the vulgarity and ostentation of the poor man spending his month's earnings for a day's pleasuring. Their gaiety is a bird's gaiety, they do not know they are happy and they do not care whether other people know it or not. Without nerves or any obtrusive convictions, no wonder Mr. Hearn likes to live among them. No wonder he selected a little Japanese lady, who neither expects nor desires him to renew his vows of affection at least after every satisfactory meal. No wonder he does not care to return with his moon lady to a worried, bargain counter sisterhood, who might make her discontent with the hang of her kimono. Lafcadio Hearn has a business name, that his publishers make out checks to, but I have forgotten it and so in this slight review call him "Mr. Hearn." Kokoro is a study of the Chinese through the microscope. It reveals things only shown to the multiplying lens of genius. Ten years residence in the kingdom of cherry blossoms and we would still be peering yankees, outside of their world. As it is, we have had the honor of meeting the Japanese whether they will or no.

The war reports of Red Badge of Courage Crane confirm the worst that have ever been said about him. He thinks his review of the war of much more interest and importance than the events themselves. His insignificant personality is of no interest to those who wished to know the movements of the armies, and his literary style is puerile and as self-conscious as a school boy. Compare Grant's objective composition with Stephen Crane's degenerate

subjectivity. Compare them in your mind, for bring the two in actual presence and the repulsion from Stephen Crane is as from some loathsome growth.

The solemn deliberations of the seniors of the state university as to how many tickets they will demand from the faculty and concerning what language the chancellor shall use when he bids them God speed is in startling contrast to the place they hold in the government of the university, to see and hear these bonnie brassy lads who owe all they know to the state and all they don't know to themselves, a visitor from another state of things would of course, conclude that they were wise men discussing the expediency of hiring the chancellor for another year or of installing quite another faculty. It is quite incomprehensible that the intrusive wisdom of the only people who are entirely capable of running the state university into the ground should not have been recognized by the state constitution. Petitions which contain a threat, if the wrong which they protest against, is not at once righted, are circulated about once a week. Captain Guilfoyle punished the insolent ring-leader of such a revolt and his action has had a very good effect upon the military department at least. The whole trouble arises from the mistaken ideas of the students as to who the beneficiaries are as to the identity of the executive, and as to the functions of the board of regents. The zeal that the state has been endeavoring to grow into something useful has decided to control the pasture and the herders. This reversal of real positions is not altogether the fault of the students. Their petitions have not been discouraged, the chancellor and professors have been in the habit of receiving petitions and answering questions from a class that made noise enough to frighten a timid scholar. Upon certain questions of privilege it is well enough for the faculty to consider a petition if it contains no threat but upon matters of administration the faculty and regents should receive no remonstrances from the beneficiaries of an institution whose government has been as wisely constituted as the university. That they have considered such demands in the past is the cause of the very peculiar patronizing attitude of the young people who take the dole of the state as though they gave alms. Such an attitude is unique. None of the older schools in the east, or across the water, are familiar with such severity from students. On the continent and in most of the eastern schools the students pay tuition and threats of withdrawal, if they were ever made, would have a pecuniary force which is altogether lacking in state institutions. The copper-cheeked

farmer boys, fresh from the pen and the pasture, really overestimate the university's need of their presence. If they are anxious to serve the state, as by their advice they seem to be, let them stay at home next year. The school is very much crowded and library, laboratories and class rooms would be the better for the purer air caused by the absence of about a hundred infant anarchists who have infested the university for several years. Those who are left would be grateful indeed. It is a curious but none the less a universal truth that anarchist teachings implant a hatred for soap and water—consequently a company of such pupils is not alone offensive to the eye. The unclosable and immovable nose must suffer tortures in comparison to which burning is a pleasant thought, because flame is a disinfectant. To those who have not endured the neighborhood of the men who have spent their university life in getting up petitions and addressing reproaches to the faculty for what they term abuses of various kinds, these reminiscences may seem unkind and certainly undeserved. But to the clean victim who has had, from necessities of the course, to sit through an hour in a real anarchist class they inadequately recall associations which only a whiff of the same can ever make faint with the same faintness.

The record of Indian agents in this country has been most disgraceful. The Indians have been defrauded and the government's plans for them foiled through the cupidity of the agents so many times that the names and the circumstances of each case form a long black record in the Indian department. Since the government began to appoint army officers as Indian agents the records have been free from such stains. An abuse which has been hardest to reform, but which has been accomplished in Nebraska, is the leasing of large tracts of land from the Indians by cattlemen for grazing purposes. For an insignificant sum the Indians have leased their lands, thus defeating the ends of government which would train them as agriculturists. Since Captain Beck, of the 10th cavalry, took charge of the Omaha and Winnebago agency he has been very offensive to politicians, cattlemen and contractors, because he repudiated the unlawful leases and was uninfluenced by the money which was freely offered him to go in with them. President Cleveland being once convinced that Captain Beck would do his duty, paid no attention to the requests for supplanting Captain Beck with a civilian "who would mind his own business." But President McKinley has been induced to direct the secretary of war to order Captain Beck back to his regiment and Lieutenant